

Czech Prepositions

Prepositions Taking the Genitive:

bez	without	bez vody = without water
do	to, till, until, into	do školy = to school, do ledna = until January, položil jsem knihu do zásuvky = I put the book into a drawer
od	from, since	od stolu = from the table, od února = since February
u	at, by	u stolu = at the table, u kostela = by the church
z (ze)	of, from	z cukru = (made) of sugar, z města = from the city
za	during	za noci = during the night, za války = during the war
kolem	around, about	kolem zahrady = around the garden
vedle	next to, beside	vedle knihovny = next to, beside the library
místo	instead of	snídá mléko místo kávy = he/she has milk instead of coffee for breakfast
krome	except, with the exception of	všichni krome Karla = all except Karel

Prepositions Taking the Dative:

k (ke)	to, toward	k lesu = to the woods, k vode = to water, dítě utíkalo k autu = the child ran toward the car
proti	against	proti válce = against the war
kvůli	because of, due to	kvůli studiu = because of my studies, kvůli nemoci = due to illness
vuci	towards	vuci mamince se musíme chovat s úctou = towards mother we have to behave with respect
díky	thanks to	díky bratrovi = thanks to my brother

Prepositions Taking the Accusative:

pro	for	film jen pro dospělé = film for the adults only
pres	across, over	pres reku = across the river, pres plot = over the fence
o	for	obávám se o syna = I fear for my son
na	on	dávám tu knihu na stul = I am putting the book on the table
v (ve)	in, on	verit v něco = to believe in something, v nedeli = on Sunday
nad	above, beyond	je to nad moje síly = it is above me, beyond my power
pod	under	kocka utíkala pod stul = the cat ran under the table
pred	in front of	vyšel pred dum = he went in front of the house
za	behind	slunko zapadá za kopec = the Sun is setting behind the hill
mezi	between, among	posadím se mezi Evu a Janu = I'll sit down between Eva and Jana.
po	up to	voda mu sahá po kolena = the water is up to his knees

Prepositions Taking the Prepositional:

pri	by	prísahám pri všetom, čo je mi sväté = I swear by all that I hold holy
na	on	kniha leží na stole = the book is lying on the table
po	after	po večeri = after dinner
v (ve)	in, inside	kniha je v mém pokoji = the book is in my room
o	about, on	mluvím o svém bratrovi = I speak about my brother, esej o české literatúre = an essay on Czech literature

Prepositions Taking the Instrumental:

s	with	mluvím s bratrom = I speak with my brother
nad	above, over	nad mestem svítí mesíc = a moon is shining over the city
pod	below, under	je deset stupnu pod nulou = it's ten degrees below zero, kocka sedí pod stolem = the cat is sitting under the table
pred	in front of	stojím pred domem = I'm standing in front of the house
	before	ctyri sta let pred Kristem = four centuries before Christ
	ago	pred týdnem = a week ago
za	behind	za plotem byla zahrada = there was a garden behind the fence

A Note:

Some prepositions take several cases. **Nad, pod, pred, za, mezi** and **na** take the Accusative when the verb in the sentence answers the question **kam** (whither, where to?), indicating movement or direction. When the verb answers the question **kde** (where?) they take the Instrumental with the exception of the preposition **na** which takes the Prepositional.

Kam? nad, pod, pred, za, na **stul** **Kde?** nad, pod, pred, za **stolem**, but **na stole**

Examples:

Kam? (Accusative)

Kocka vyskocí na kreslo, leze na strom, etc.

Vyjdeme pred (za) dum.

Kocka utekla pod stul.

Balon vyletel nad mesto.

Postavím se mezi Karla a Janu.

Kde? (Na + Prep., all others + Instr.)

Kocka leží na kresle, sedí na strome, etc.

Stojíme pred (za) domem.

Kocka leží pod stolem.

Nad mestem svítí mesíc.

Stojím mezi Karlem a Janou.

Remember:

The preposition **za** can take the Genitive, Accusative or Instrumental.

The prepositions **po, o, v** can take either the Accusative or Prepositional.